

NEWS BEAT

State has money for tax refunds

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah has plenty of money to send out tax refunds, said Charlie Roberts, public information officer for the Utah tax Commission.

"It's untrue, just a wonderful rumor," Roberts said about Utah not sending tax refunds because of budget shortages. Roberts said his neighbor's tax refund was held because of an error on the tax form.

People expecting refunds from the state who have not received them should call (801) 297-2200. Roberts said they should go through the options until they get a real person.

What is happening is that less than 3 percent of refunds are being held because the computer has read a Social Security number, address or ZIP code incorrectly, he said. Also, anyone can e-mail Roberts at charlie@utah.gov with questions.

Fundraiser slated in Clearfield

CLEARFIELD — On April 24 and 25, Habitat for Humanity will host a yard sale to raise funds to build homes for local low- to moderate-income families in Weber and Davis Counties.

The sale will take place indoors at the former Foods Etc. store at Clearfield Towne Square, near State Street and 200 South in Clearfield.

Habitat will be selling surplus building materials, new and used furniture, appliances, tools, sporting goods, toys and other household and yard care items (no clothes).

All donations and sales during this two-day event will help support the current Doxey Street Projects in Ogden (near 27th and Wall Avenue), where Habitat for Humanity is renovating two single-family homes and has just completed one for a family in December.

Habitat is in desperate need of additional sale items. Anyone with leftover building materials, used cabinets and furniture or household items (no clothing please) is asked to call Howard at 710-4342 or the Habitat office at 475-9821. Volunteers are available Saturday and April 11 to pick up donated materials.

Clinton seeks youth council applicants

CLINTON — Youths age 14-18 who live in Clinton can now join the youth council. Applications are available at the city or online at www.clintoncity.net.

Applicants are asked to include a recent photo with their application to help with the interview process.

The deadline to turn in applications is 5 p.m. April 30. For more information, call adviser Julie Davis, (801) 499-1963.

West Bountiful to observe Arbor Day

WEST BOUNTIFUL — City officials will be planting new trees in the city's parks at 9 a.m. May 9.

A tree-planting demonstration will also be

Minorities face health challenges

By LORETTA PARK

Standard-Examiner, Davis Bureau
lpark@standard.net

FARMINGTON — A report indicating minority populations continue to face higher rates of death and disease, while most Utahns' health has improved significantly, is no surprise to a local health official.

"Ethnic minorities will delay or forgo their health care because they don't have the finances or because they are in a different country and our health care system is done differently," said Lisa Nichols, executive director of

Midtown Community Health Center.

April is Minority Health Month. Health officials said they hope to increase awareness about what the problem is as the first step to solving it.

Nichols said it also is difficult for a minority who doesn't speak English to call and ask for medical help or make an appointment.

April Bennett, multicultural health specialist with the state's Department of Health, said socioeconomic factors do play a role in minorities seeking health care.

"Many of them have lower incomes," she said.

Utah health indicators

Health indicators for minority type:		All Utahns		Utah blacks		Utah Hispanics		Utah Pacific Islanders		Utah Asians		Utah Indians	
Category													
Life expectancy	78.7 yrs	76.5 yrs	79.7 yrs	80.7 yrs	82.8 yrs	76.1 yrs							
No health insurance	10.7%	21.2%	31.6%	10.7%	6.4%	16.5%							
No usual place of care	9.8%	15.7%	20.4%	6.6%	11.7%	12.8%							
Inadequate prenatal care	18.6%	47.0%	33.0%	52.7%	20.1%	42.7%							
Cigarette smoking	11.1%	22.0%	13.2%	12.9%	11.3%	21.1%							
Obesity	21.3%	28.2%	21.4%	49.2%	7.3%	26.5%							

Source: Utah Department of Health

Source: Utah Department of Health

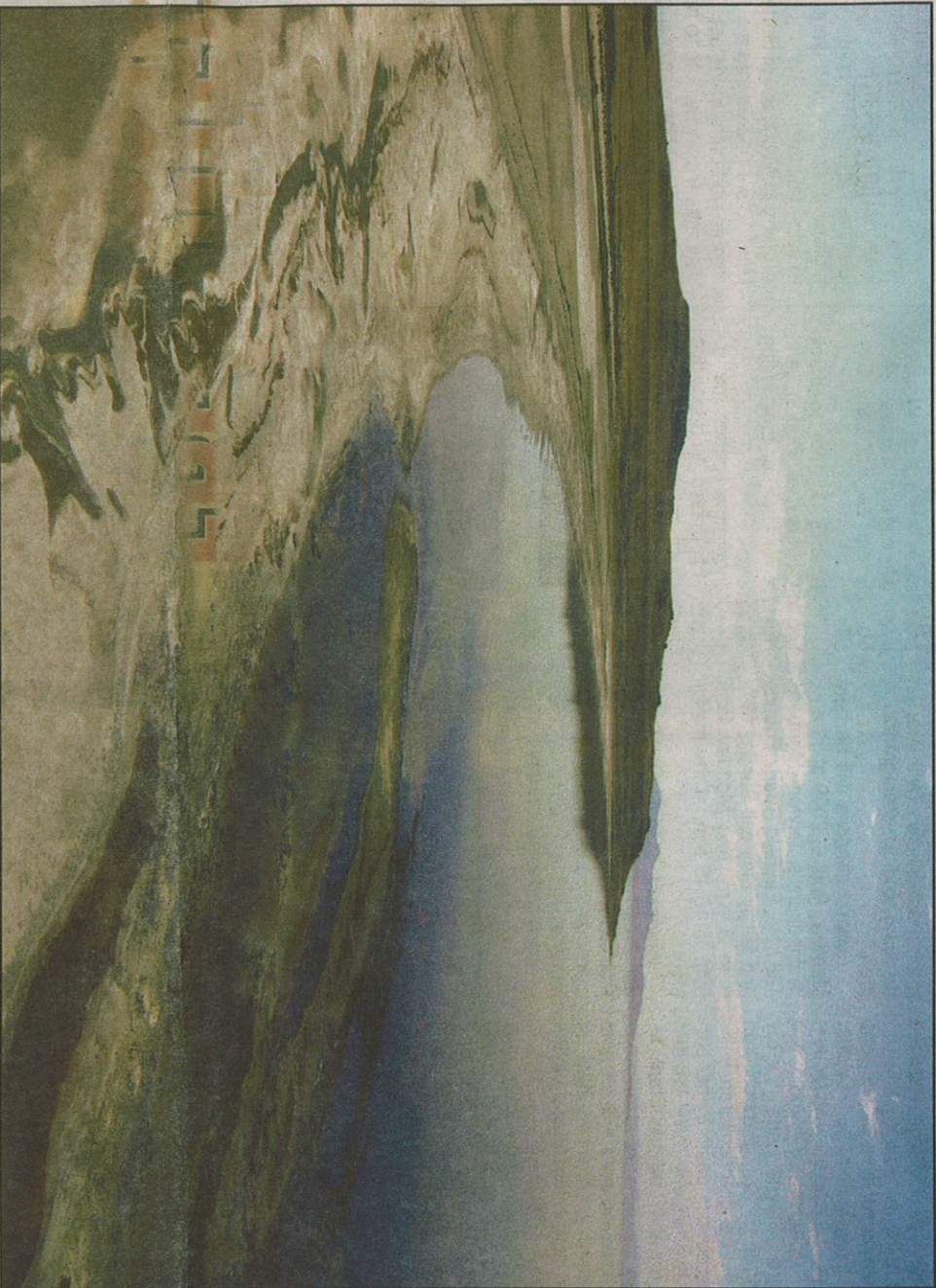
Standard-Examiner

Also, newer immigrants have told health officials the diet in the United States consists of fattier foods, sugars and processed foods. These contribute to chronic illnesses such as heart disease, stroke and diabetes, Bennett said.

Nichols said some minorities have jobs that make it difficult for them to take time

See HEALTH | Page 4B

New faces at Antelope Island



ROLAND BROWN/Special to the Standard-Examiner

International journalists are visiting Antelope Island State Park, courtesy of the Utah Office of Tourism.

International journalists visit Utah's scenic areas during tour sponsored by Utah Office of Tourism

By WENDY GREEN

Standard-Examiner correspondent

ANTELOPE ISLAND — A row of more than a dozen people stood in silence looking out over the Great Salt Lake, awed by the beauty of the early morning sun reflecting in glowing colors off the surface of the water.

Thousands of people visit Antelope Island every year, but this group had a distinctive international flavor.

The Utah Office of Tourism wants the whole world to know about the natural beauty the state has to offer. To get the word out, it partnered with local travel offices to bring international journalists here for a weeklong Media Familiarization Tour, called FAM. The visitors arrived March 27 and will tour Utah through today.

"The goal of the tour is Utah's state and national parks and to tout us as a year-round tourist destination. Utah is

different than other states. We have five national parks and 42 state parks," said Barbara Riddle, president and CEO of the Davis Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The visiting group included 19 writers, photographers and television producers from France, Ireland, Japan, Germany and Korea. Representatives with Delta Airlines and Aer Lingus helped choose which journalists to invite. Riddle hopes the experience will increase international visitor numbers by giving travel writers Utah-based story subjects. International visitors accounted for less than 4 percent of nonresident visitations in 2008, according to the tourism office.

The first stop on the tour was Snowbasin. An early breakfast at the Antelope Island beach house Saturday was followed by a guided bus tour of the island.

"The Great Salt Lake is America's Dead Sea. Antelope

See VISIT | Page 4B



Photo courtesy of U.S. Forest Service
About 60 Columbian sharp-tailed grouse will be transplanted to Antelope Island.

Wildlife board hopes to increase sharp-tailed grouse population

By MIKE STARK

The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — A prairie bird once scattered around Utah but now more rare, will soon staging a comeback at Antelope Island State Park.

The Utah Wildlife Board approved a plan Thursday to allow about 60 Columbian sharp-tailed grouse to be transplanted to the island in the middle of Great Salt Lake.

The project is part of a large effort to bolster the bird's population in Utah and keep it off the federal endangered species list.

Crews may move the first set of birds to the island later this spring. More will be transplanted next fall and winter, said Dave Olsen, a state biologist.

The Columbian sharp-tailed grouse is one of seven subspecies of sharp-tailed grouse in North America.

It once roamed much of Northern and central Utah, but as agricultural operations moved grassland converted to cropland and the ground-nesting bird moved out.

Today, it occupies about 5 p

See GROUSE | Page 4B

NSL firefighters enjoy new Station 82

By LYNZE WARDLE

Standard-Examiner correspondent

NORTH SALT LAKE CITY

Missing 8-month-old girl was not kidnapped

By JESSE FRUHWIRTH

Standard-Examiner, Davis Bureau

tioned earlier. "The county prosec